

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the siNA molecule comprises one or more chemical modifications. The amendment to claim 1 is made without prejudice and without intent to abandon any previously claimed subject matter. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification.

Claims 8 and 18 have been amended merely to correct clerical errors.

Claims 31-36 have been canceled. Cancellation of these claims is without prejudice and without intent to abandon any previously claimed subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims at a future date.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

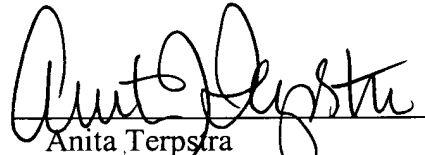
Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required in connection with the papers transmitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 13-2490. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Date: February 23, 2004

By:


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